

*Letter written by Alfred Rix Habershon to his mother Mary Gidley Habershon, Parkfield Rd, Rotherham, Yorks*

Vorder Todtmoos

Monday 18 July 1898

Dear Mother,

I will continue where I left off that is Schluchtsee. From there we walked to St Blasiez; the first part of the way was over a high plateau. It was a splendid day quite clear and part way on the road to St Blasiez we discovered that the Alps were in sight. Later on we descended through the forest to St Blasiez. The Duke of Baden was staying there and the town was decorated with two triumphant arches. We first went to the post office to get letters; I got yours and Percy's and also one from Hanson. We then went and had lunch at a restaurant and afterwards went to see about our luggage at the post office. We decided to go on and spend the night in Hochenswand the highest village in Baden and so we had to unpack our holdalls at the post office to get out our map sacks. We sent on the luggage to Albruch. On getting to Hocheswand at sunset there was splendid view of the Alps, the Bernes Oberland group being the nearest and consequently the clearest; we could make out all the different peaks and Uncle told me the names of a number of them. There were two hotels at this place, one very aristocratic and the other only a country inn. Of course we put up at the latter. After dinner Uncle ordered breakfast for the morning but through some misunderstanding they brought it up about half past nine – four eggs included – next morning we got up about quarter to six and went to the big hotel for a key to a tower situated at the highest point of the village. From this tower we got a magnificent view of the whole range of the Alps. After breakfast we walked down the Albthal to Albbuich on the Rhine. It was enormously hot, the sun blazing down with not a breath of wind, and there is not much chance of shade for the sun is almost straight overhead. We had only twelve miles to walk but we found it a good days work in the heat. At Albbuich we stayed at the Albthal Hotel and found it very comfortable. The Albthal is most of the way a very deep ravine with a cliff on each side. The road in some places is cut in the solid rock at times going through tunnels also cut through the rock. Although very grand to look we however found it not very adaptable for photography. On Sunday it was again very hot. We took the train in the morning from Albruck to Laufenburg on the Rhine. The Rhine here rushes down a very fine rapid. I took several photos I hope they will come out all right. We stopped about 4 hours in Laufenburg which is a very picturesque place. From there we took the train about midday to Wehr. In the afternoon we went to see a stalactite cavern about two miles away. We found a large party with a guide just about to go in so we joined them. We each had to carry a torch consisting of lengths of wood which would not burn and kept going out. It was a very fine cavern about half a mile long and was very wet inside. Today we have walked here up the Wehrthal, this valley I like, the best we have seen. The sun was again very hot but we did not feel it so much for there was a slight breeze. We are having splendid weather, we have been very lucky in that respect. I have got all your letters all right, Oppenau that Uncle mentioned was a mistake. It is time to stop now. Love to everybody.

Your loving son

Alfred

PS Have you heard from Oscar?